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ANNUAL REPORT

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OF THE

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DEPARTMENT OF
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

OF THE

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

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1929

See typewritten statistics
for 1929

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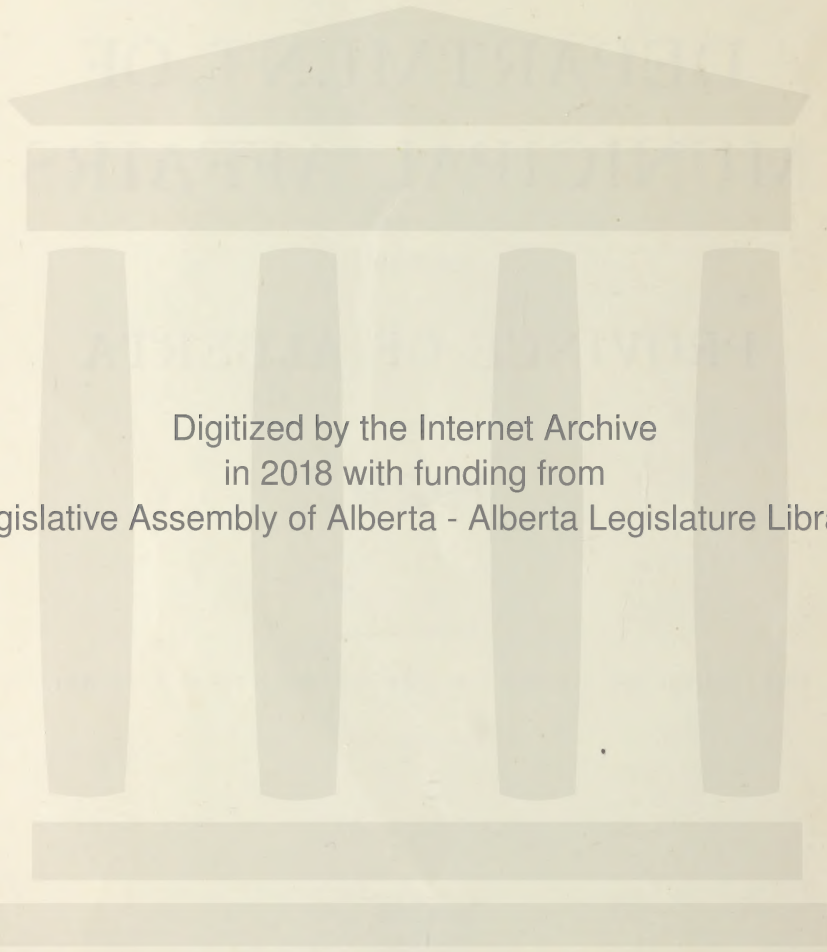
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS
OF THE
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
1929

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Edmonton, June 30th, 1930.

TO HIS HONOUR

WILLIAM EGBERT,

Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Alberta.

SIR,—

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Report of the Department of Municipal Affairs for the year 1929.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. G. REID,

Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Edmonton, Alberta,
June 30th, 1930.

HONOURABLE R. G. REID,
Minister of Municipal Affairs,
Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

I have the honour to submit herewith the Nineteenth Annual Report of the Department of Municipal Affairs.

The Report relates to provincial finances for the year ending the 31st day of March, 1930, except where comparative tables for 1928 and 1929 expressly cover the operations for the calendar year, and so far as the same relates to other matters for the year ending the 31st day of December, 1929, with the exception of the legislation passed at the 1930 Session of the Legislature.

LEGISLATION.

It may be said that the legislation prepared by this Department was of a very minor character, with the possible exception of an Act to provide for the amalgamation of the former Town of Lloydminster, Saskatchewan and the former Village of Lloydminster, Alberta. Immediately upon the passing of that Act representatives of the municipalities met with representatives of both Governments to discuss the steps necessary to formulate policies and to determine a basis for the election of a composite council, and for the appointment of a commission with authority to re-draft Acts, or any part of Acts, then existing, with the intention that such re-drafted Acts or parts of Acts would serve as the charter of the composite area after the same had been approved by complementary Orders-in-Council of both Governments.

A commission was duly appointed consisting of David Mowat, chartered accountant of Saskatchewan, Chairman; Louis Jacobs, representing the Town of Lloydminster in the Province of Saskatchewan; Alexander Soutter, representing the Village of Lloydminster in the Province of Alberta.

The commission was directed to enquire into the indebtedness of the Town of Lloydminster and the Village of Lloydminster to determine whether the burden of providing for the annual charges in respect of debenture indebtedness should be varied from the basis of proportionate equalized assessments of the respective areas of the town and of the village.

Statements of assets and liabilities as at December 31st, 1929, were duly prepared covering the Town of Lloydminster, Town Public School District No. 1036, Village Public School District No. 1753, and the Village of Lloydminster.

The findings of the commission briefly were that:

- (a) The assets and liabilities of the Village of Lloydminster, adjusted by the commission, or such portion thereof, as existing on the 22nd day of May, 1930, which was the day the new Act came into force, should be transferred to and

form part of the assets and liabilities of the new Town of Lloydminster.

- (b) The assets and liabilities of Public School District No. 1036 of the Province of Saskatchewan, Public School District No. 1753 of the Province of Alberta, and the Lloydminster Joint School Board, as adjusted by this commission, or such portion thereof existing on the said 22nd day of May, 1930, should be transferred to and form part of the assets and liabilities of the new Lloydminster Public School District.

The new council was duly elected and is now functioning.

The Municipal Acts passed in 1926 and 1927 seem to be giving every satisfaction, and the amendments at the last session really did not affect the principles of these Acts, but were to meet specific requirements, such as the authority to provide health services in areas not served by municipal hospitals, the power to enter into contracts under the provisions of The Public Highways Act, and such necessary changes to bring the Acts into conformity with the new Alberta Assessment Commission Act.

The Town of Drumheller was incorporated as a city and necessary legislation enacted in the form of a city charter.

ASSESSMENT.

During the year under review, a new assessment has been made throughout the Province to form the basis of taxation for the triennial period, commencing with the year 1931, and these assessments are now being reviewed by the Alberta Assessment Commission.

With a view of stabilizing assessments as much as possible the Department arranged a series of meetings to which assessors were invited, and a policy was agreed upon, whereby it was hoped that there would be a relationship of values as between the municipalities that would harmonize values along the borders of municipal districts.

MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION.

During the year 1929 the following new Villages were erected:

Beaverlodge,
Black Diamond,
Bonnyville,
Compeer,
Elnora,
Fairview,
Hythe,
Ranfurly,
Rochon Sands,
Sexsmith,
Two Hills.

Since 1929 the Hamlets of Edberg, Grimshaw and Turner Valley were also erected into Villages, while the Village of Suffield was disorganized.

The Municipal District of Britannia, No. 183, was disorganized early in the year 1930. This district was situated in an area that has been seriously depopulated during years of drought, and as soon as the Department was in a position to have the finances adjusted, it was deemed advisable to revert the district to the status of an improvement district. An advantage of disorganization is that

the lands in that area will now be dealt with by the Tilley East Board in conjunction with other lands in the drought area.

TAX RECOVERY BRANCH.

During the twelve months ending December 31st, 1929, public sales of land were held at sixteen different points, at which there were offered for sale 1,172 parcels of farm lands, mineral rights to 40 parcels, 7 blocks and 435 lots. During the same period 387 parcels of farm lands, comprising 56,814.60 acres, 5 blocks, 56 subdivided lots, and 16 parcels of coal rights comprising 2,566 acres, were redeemed. Sales, publicly or privately, amounted to 465 parcels of farm lands, comprising 71,180 acres, 4 blocks and 186 subdivided lots.

At the close of the calendar year the Department had under administration the following parcels of land:

5,056 parcels of farm lands,
53 blocks,
5,235 subdivided lots,
42 parcels of mineral rights under farm lands,
178 parcels of mineral rights under lots.

Agreements of sale were executed in respect of 353 parcels of farm lands, 8 blocks and 19 lots.

In addition to the lands administered directly by the Department there was under its control, subject to direction by the Tilley East Area Board, 2,826 parcels of farm lands held under lease from the Federal Government. The Department has under lease 735 parcels of land on crop shares, while permits for grazing, etc., were granted on 1,830 parcels of land. The revenue from crop leases alone amounted to \$37,569.25, and from grazing leases to \$14,539.42.

The total receipts through the operations of the Tax Recovery Branch for the fiscal year ending April 5th, 1930, were \$340,608.18, made up as follows:

SOURCE OF REVENUE.

Sales—Farm Lands	\$167,598.62
Sales—Subdivisions	3,351.69
Sales—Buildings	8,197.55
Redemption—Farm Lands	76,152.25
Redemption—Subdivisions	687.63
Crop Leases	37,569.25
Grazing Leases	14,539.42
Sales of Fence, Wire, etc.	415.45
Rents	311.34
Seizures	1,120.99
Refunds (as below)	15,053.27
Miscellaneous	2,773.58
Tax Consolidation	2,840.37
Taxes on Agreements of Sale	4,939.76
Suspense (as shown below)	5,057.01
Total.....	\$340,608.18

The receipts were disposed of as follows:

DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUE.

Supplementary Revenue	\$ 24,263.04
Wild Lands	20,841.42
Improvement District	59,459.48
Education—General	4,840.94
Education—Lease	748.94
Hospital	875.11
Noxious Weeds	35.73
Caveat Costs	9,734.60

Tax Recovery Branch Costs	\$ 18,447.31
Relief	586.16
School	74,036.44
Provincial Treasurer, Capital	3,884.34
Provincial Treasurer, Profit	12,621.85
Provincial Treasurer, Trust Account	21,659.30
Provincial Treasurer, Trust "A"	8,343.07
Tilley East Area Fund	5,978.95
Dominion Seed Grain	11,066.09
Provincial Seed Grain and Relief	41,256.07
Refund	15,053.27
Refunded to taxing authorities	1,806.36
Exchange	12.70
Suspense	5,057.01
Total.....	\$340,608.18

During the calendar year ending December 31st, 1929, the Tax Recovery Branch collected the sum of \$324,617.80 as against \$186,701.41 in the year 1928. Of this sum there was distributed—

School Districts	24.11%
Improvement Districts	18.33%
Supplementary Revenue	7.79%
Wild Lands	5.35%
Seed Grain, Relief, and Live Stock Encouragement Act....	11.86%
Educational Taxes	2.68%

the balance going to hospitals, refunds and miscellaneous revenues.

The Tax Recovery Branch is also responsible for the sale and leasing of lands subject to forfeiture proceedings, and in the year 1929 the revenue derived from this source amounted to \$369,777.51 as against \$304,798.47 in 1928, and \$111,604.94 in 1927. It will be seen how rapidly this branch of the Department is expanding. Of the amount realized, 48.3% represented proceeds of sales, representing practically in all cases abandoned lands; 21% amounts paid for redemption; 14.3% from crop leases; 3.5% from grazing leases, the balance of the revenue being made up of the sale of obsolete buildings, sales of subdivisions, etc.

The sum of \$369,777.51 collected by the Tax Recovery Branch from sales and leases was distributed as follows:

Schools	22.2%
Improvement Districts	17.5%
Provincial Seed Grain, Relief, and Live Stock Encouragement Act	11.6%
Dominion Seed Grain	3.3%
Refunds to Treasury for advances to pay school taxes, and profits from sales	13.0%
Supplementary Revenue taxes	6.8%
Wild Land Tax	6.0%
Education Tax	1.5%

while the balance was credited to costs incurred in connection with tax recovery proceedings, refunds to Trust Account in respect of indigent relief, and miscellaneous revenue.

SEED GRAIN AND RELIEF BRANCH.

In the Collection Branch of the Department, which deals with the collections of seed grain and relief indebtedness, advances under the Live Stock Encouragement Act and Timber Areas Tax Act, there was realized in the calendar year of 1929 the sum of \$351,983.35 as against the sum of \$217,107.00 in the year 1927. Although the revenue had considerably increased in the year 1929 over that of 1927, the cost of collection in 1929 was \$24,069.52 as

against \$34,165.53 in 1927. This was brought about by the co-ordination of the services in this Department.

TAXATION BRANCH.

The Taxation and Collection Branches together collected in the calendar year of 1929 the sum of \$2,843,961.01 as against a total collection of \$2,439,083.92 in the year 1928. The distribution of this revenue was as follows:

Supplementary Revenue	41.03%
Improvement Districts	16.41%
Wild Lands	10.39%
Seed Grain, Relief, and Live Stock Encouragement Act....	8.72%
School Taxes	7.76%
Educational Taxes	5.26%
Hospitals	0.97%

the balance going to the credit of the Province with respect to commissions, costs, etc.

PROVINCIAL REVENUE.

The following is a comparative statement of revenues collected under the Supplementary Revenue, Educational and Wild Lands Tax Acts:

	Supplementary Revenue.	Educational.	Wild Lands.
Collections, April 6th, 1928, to April 5th, 1929	\$1,166,210.17	\$149,694.71	\$295,503.00
Collections, April 6th, 1929, to April 5th, 1930	1,019,301.82	130,375.70	236,749.75

ELIMINATION OF SCHEDULES.

Reports previous to this year's have had attached to them schedules showing assessment and taxation, assets and liabilities, loans and debentures, and the result of the operations of the various municipalities of each current year. I do not feel that the elimination of these tables will cause undue inconvenience to anyone, but as the schedules have been compiled the Department will be in the position to furnish to any person or corporation information with respect to any one or more municipalities, and will gladly do so if requests are made, setting out the municipalities in which these persons or corporations are interested.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation of and thanks to the members of the executive of the Urban and Rural Associations for their kindly co-operation during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

R. ENGLISH,

Acting Deputy Minister.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1929.

(1) ASSESSMENT:

Cities	\$146,196,554.00
Towns	32,608,023.28
Villages	18,943,510.26
Municipal Districts	372,257,717.00

(2) TAXATION (Municipal Only):

	Levy 1929.	Collections during 1929.	Arrears at Dec. 31, 1929.
Cities	\$9,055,372.06	\$9,593,578.92	\$10,392,028.57
Towns	852,565.60	760,796.05	942,939.38
Villages	331,224.86	277,826.66	309,896.41
Municipal Districts	3,631,004.21	3,265,384.76	3,621,674.58

(3) ESTIMATED POPULATION:

Cities	185,048
Towns	57,853
Villages	37,689
Municipal Districts	363,370

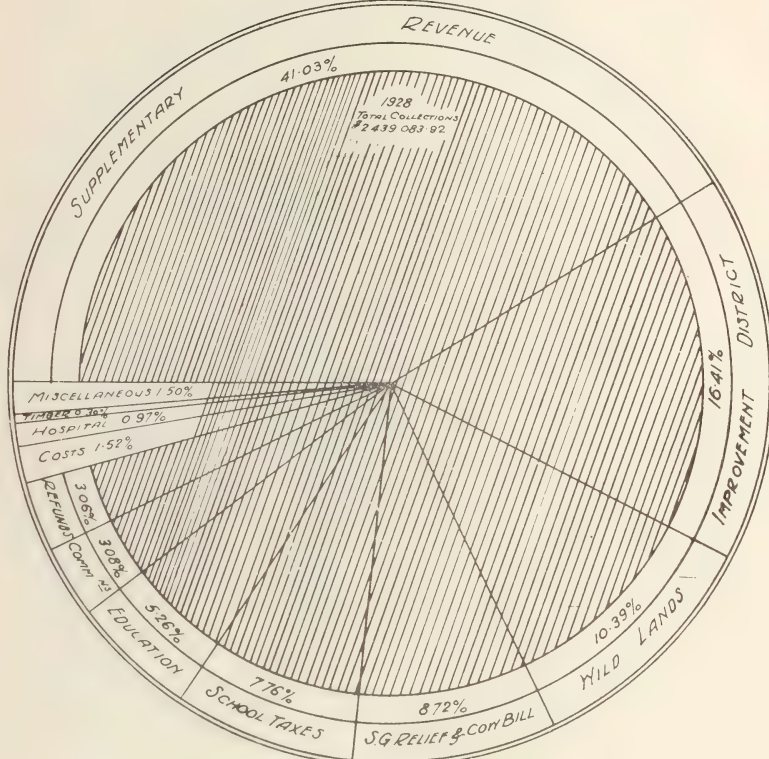
(4) DEBENTURE DEBT:

	Dec. 31, 1928.	Dec. 31, 1929.
Cities	\$60,715,407.42	\$75,749,175.49
Towns	2,598,614.28	2,600,020.20
Villages	63,107.29	71,410.27
Municipal Districts	33,163.12	29,038.48

(5) PROVINCIAL REVENUES (Calendar year ending Dec. 31st, 1929): Supplementary Revenue Act—

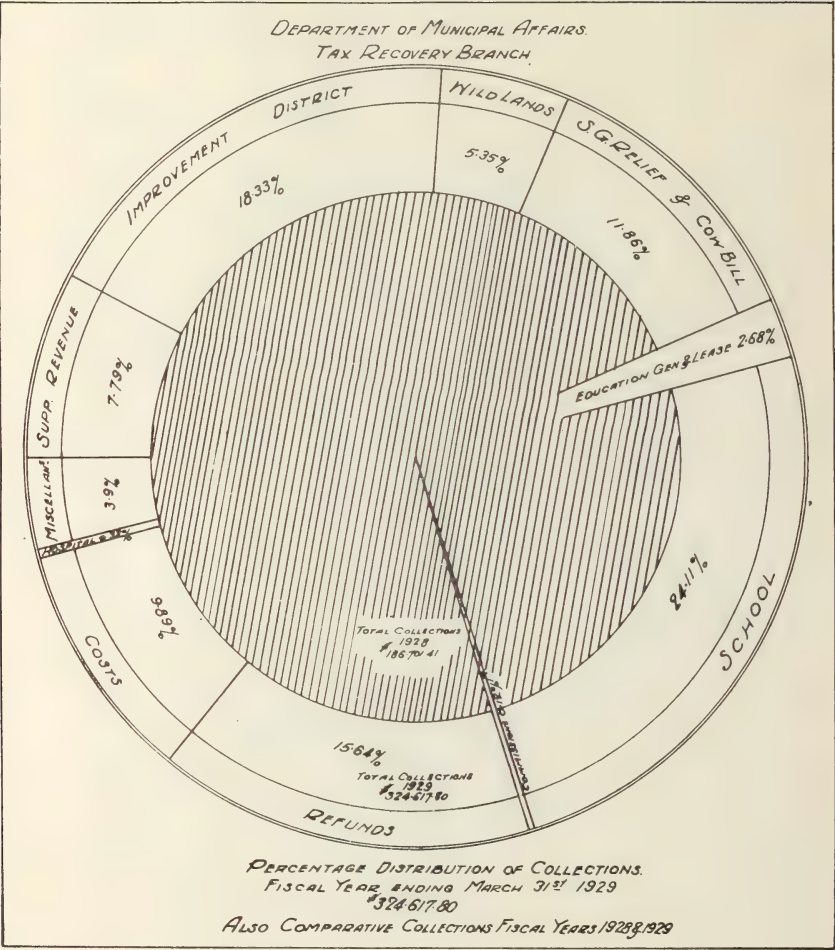
	Levy 1929.	Collections during 1929.	Arrears at Dec. 31, 1929.
Cities	\$144,043.13	\$140,418.50	\$ 89,227.23
Towns	20,345.70	18,849.56	27,522.98
Villages	10,613.41	9,293.54	13,970.27
Municipal Districts	730,417.52	688,802.04	953,197.63
Total.....	\$905,419.76	\$857,363.64	\$1,083,918.11
Educational Tax Act	\$ 38,495.97	\$ 44,996.01	\$131,847.34
Wild Lands Tax Act.....	159,694.62	152,925.30	309,785.03

DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS
TOTAL COLLECTIONS

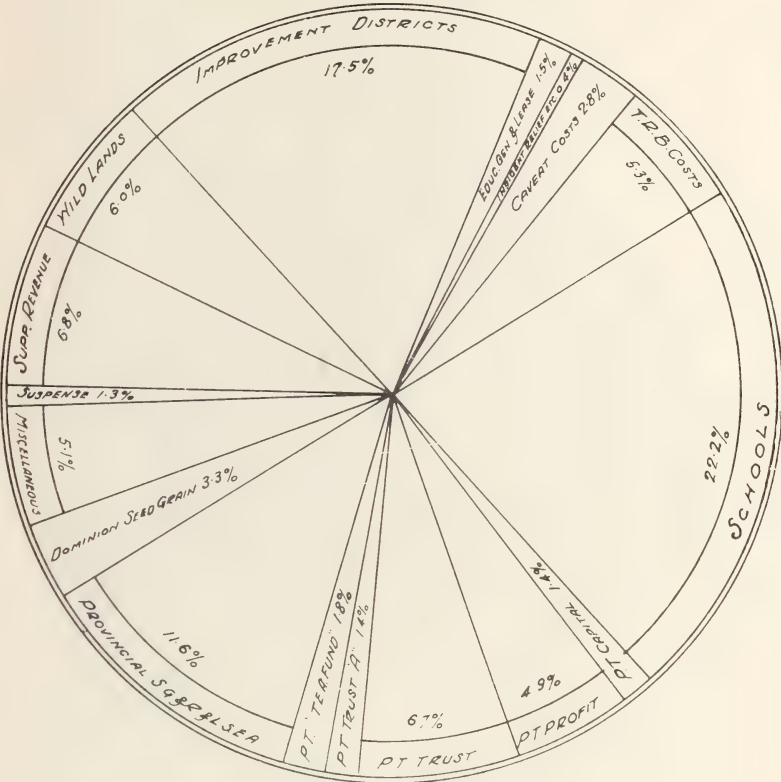


PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SOURCE OF COLLECTIONS
1929
\$2843,961.01

ALSO COMPARATIVE COLLECTIONS 1928 & 1929

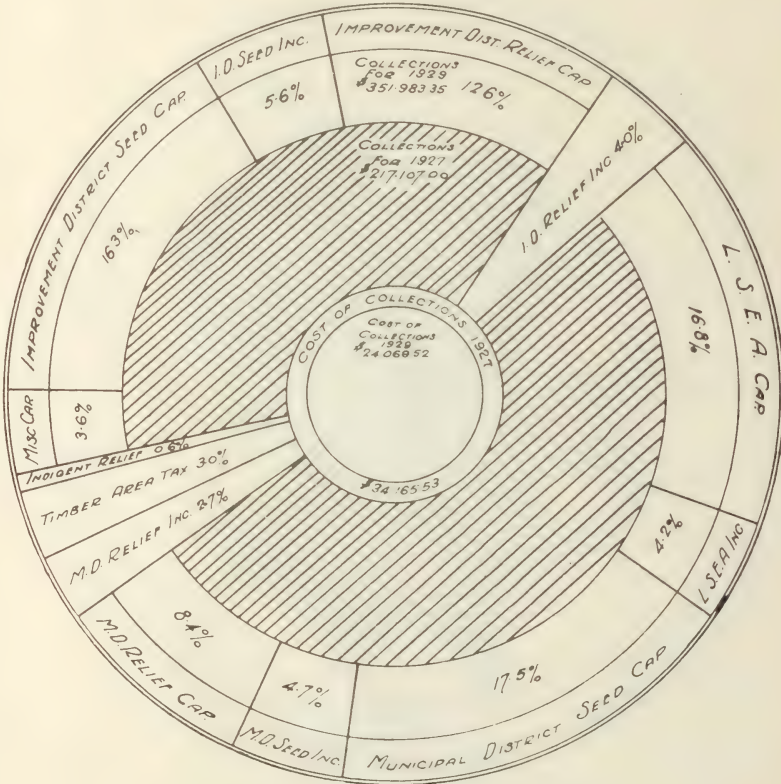


DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS
TAX RECOVERY BRANCH



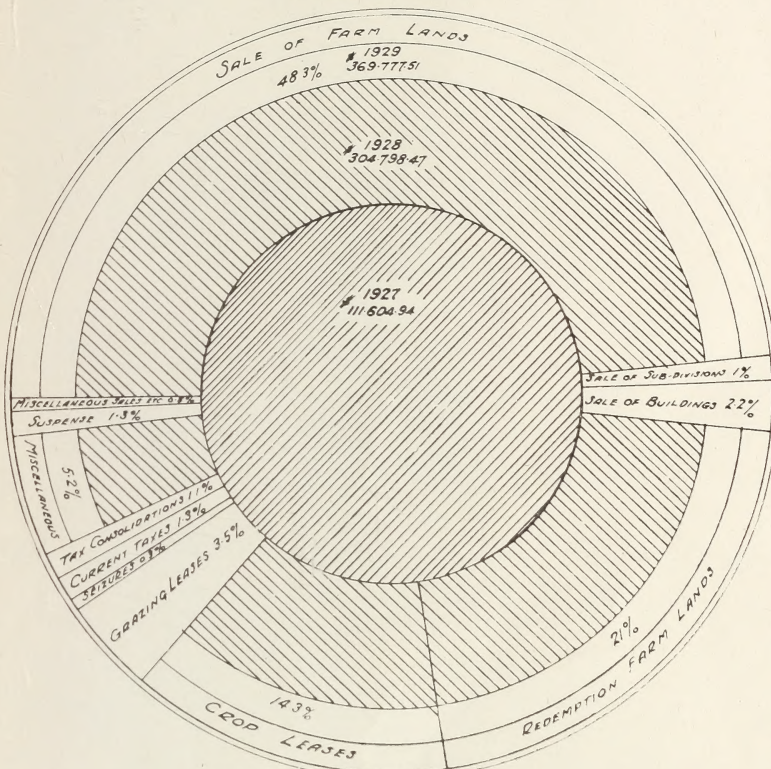
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUE
\$369,777.51
1929

DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS
COLLECTION BRANCH



SOURCE OF COLLECTIONS 1929
COMPARATIVE COLLECTIONS 1927 & 1929
COMPARATIVE COSTS 1927 & 1929

DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS
TAX RECOVERY BRANCH



PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SOURCE OF REVENUE
FOR 1929
ALSO COMPARATIVE REVENUE FOR 1927-1928-1929

